REPORT OF LIEUT.-GEN. U. S. GRANT.

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enemy, driving him back to New Hope church, near Dallas. Several sharp encounters occurred at this point. The most important was on the 28th, when the young assaulted General McPherson at Dallas, but received a terrible and bloody repulse.

On the 4th of June Johnston abandoned his intrenched position at New Hope church, and retreated to the strong positions of Kenesaw, Pine, and Lost mountains. He was forced to yield the two last named peaks and concentrate his army on Kenesaw, where, on the 27th, Generals Thomas and McPherson made a determined but unsuccessful assault. On the night of the 2d of July Sherman commenced moving his army by the right flank, and on the morning of the 3d found that the enemy, in consequence of this movement, had abandoned Kenesaw and retreated across the Chattahoochee.

General Sherman remained on the Chattahoochee to give his men rest and get stores until the 17th of July, when he resumed his operations, crossed the Chattahoochee, destroyed a large portion of the railroad to Augusta, and drove the enemy back to Atlanta. On this place General Hood succeeded General Johnston in command of the rebel army, and assuming the offensive-defensive policy, made several severe attacks upon Sherman in the vicinity of Atlanta, the most desperate and determined of which was on the 22d of July. About 1 p. m. of this day the brave, accomplished, and noble-hearted McPherson was killed. General Logan succeeded him, and commanded the army of the Tennessee through this desperate battle, and until he was superseded by Major General Howard, on the 26th, with the same success and ability that had characterized him in the command of a corps or division.

In all these attacks the enemy was repulsed with great loss. Finding it impossible to entirely invest the place, General Sherman, after securing his line of communications to his rear across the Chattahoochee, moved his main force round by his right to the Montgomery and Macon roads, to draw the enemy from his fortifications. In this he succeeded, and, after defeating the enemy near Rough and Ready, Jonesboro', and Lovejoy's, forcing him to retreat to the south, on the 2d of September occupied Atlanta, the objective point of his campaign.

About the time of this move the rebel cavalry, under Wheeler, attempted to cut his communications in the rear, but was repulsed at Dalton and driven into East Tennessee, whence it proceeded west to McMinnville, Murfreesboro', and Franklin, and was finally driven south of the Tennessee. The damage done by this raid was repaired in a few days.

During the partial investment of Atlanta, General Rousseau joined General Sherman with a force of cavalry from Decatur, having made a successful raid upon the Atlanta and Montgomery railroad, and its trains near Opelika. Cavalry raids were also made by Generals McCook, Garrard and Stoneman to cut the remaining railroad communication with Atlanta. The first two were successful—the latter disastrous.

General Sherman's movement from Chattanooga to Atlanta was prompt, skillful and brilliant. The history of his flank movements and battles during that memorable campaign will ever be read with an interest unsurpassed by anything in history.

His own report, and those of his subordinate commanders accompanying it, give the details of that most successful campaign.

It was dependent for the supply of his armies upon a single-track railroad from Nashville to the point where he was operating. This passed the entire distance through a hostile country, and every foot of it had to be protected by troops. The cavalry force of the enemy under Forrest, in northern Mississippi, was evidently waiting for Sherman to advance far enough into the mountains of Georgia to make a retreat disastrous, to get upon his line and destroy it beyond the possibility of further use. To guard against this danger, Sherman left what he supposed to be a sufficient force to operate against Forrest in West Tennessee. He directed General Washburn, who commanded there, to send Brigadier General S. D. Sturgis in command of this force to attack him. On the morning of the 10th of June, General Sturgis met the enemy near Guntown, Mississippi, was badly beaten, and driven back in utter rout and confusion to Memphis, a distance of about one hundred miles, hotly pursued by the enemy. By this, however, the enemy was defeated in his designs upon Sherman's line of communications. The persistency with which he followed up this success exhausted him, and made a season for rest and repairs necessary. In the mean time, Major General A. J. Smith, with the troops of the army of the Tennessee that had been sent by General Sherman to General Banks, arrived at Memphis on their return from Red river, where they had proved their excellent service. He was directed by General Sherman to immediately take the offensive against Forrest. This he did with the promptness and effect which has characterized his whole military career. On the 14th of July he met the enemy at Tupelo, Mississippi, and whipped him badly. The fighting continued through three days. Our loss was small compared with that of the enemy. Having accomplished the object of his expedition, General Smith returned to Memphis.

During the month of August and September, Forrest annoyed us considerably. On the 14th of March it captured Union City, Kentucky, and drove the enemy back to their fortifications, commanded by Colonel S. G. Hicks, and left it unharmed; Colonel H, having but a small force, withdrew to the fort at Paducah from where he repulsed the enemy and drove him from the place.

On the 13th of April, part of this force, under the rebel General Buford, attacked the garrison of Columbus, Kentucky; to surrender, but received for reply from Colonel Lawrence, 34th New Jersey volunteers, that being placed there by his government with adequate force to hold his post and repel all enemies from it, surrender was out of the question.

On the 28th he again attacked and defeated the enemy under the rebel General Taylor at Clear river. By the 25th General Banks had reached the Red River with a small portion of his force, while with another part of his force he was pressing forward to Grand Ecore. On the morning of April 6 he moved from Grand Ecore, on the afternoon of the 7th his advance engaged the enemy near Pleasant Hill and drove him from the field. On the same afternoon the enemy made a stand eight miles beyond Pleasant Hill, but was again compelled to retreat. On the 8th, at Sabine Cross-roads and Peach Hill, the enemy attacked and defeated his advance, capturing nineteen pieces of artillery and an immense amount of transportation and stores. During the night General Banks fell back to Pleasant Hill where another battle was fought on the 9th, and the enemy repulsed with great loss. Having lost his artillery, the major-General Banks continued his retrograde movement to Grand Ecore, and thence to Alexandria, which he reached on the 27th of April. Here a serious difficulty arose in getting Admiral Porter's fleet, which accompanied the expedition, over the rapids, the water having fallen so much since they passed up as to prevent their return. At the suggestion of Colonel (now Brigadier General) Bailey, acting under his superintendence, wing dams were constructed, by which the channel was so contracted that the fleet passed down the rapids in safety.

The army evacuated Alexandria on the 14th of May, after considerable skirmishing with the enemy's advance, and reached Morganza and Point Coupee near the end of the month. The disastrous termination of this expedition and the lateness of the season, rendered impracticable the carrying out of my plan of a movement in force sufficient to ensure the capture of Mobile.

On the 23d of March Major General Steele left Little Rock with the 7th army corps to co-operate with General Banks's expedition on Red river, and reached Arkadelphia on the 28th. On the 16th of April, after driving the enemy before him, he was near Elkin's ferry, in Washita county, by General Thayer, who had marched from Fort Smith. After several severe skirmishes, the rebels having been defeated, General Steele reached Camden, which he occupied about the middle of April. On learning the defeat and consequent retreat of General Banks on Red River, and the loss of one of his own trains at Mark's mill, in Dallas county, General Steele determined to fall back to the Arkansas river. He left Camden on the 26th of April, and reached Little Rock on the 2d of May. On the 30th of April the enemy attacked him while crossing Sabine river at Jenkins's ferry, but was repulsed with considerable loss. Our loss was about 600 in killed and wounded.

On account of the difficulties of navigating the Mississippi river, General Canby, who had been assigned to the command of the "military division of west Mississippi," was therefore directed to send General A. J. Smith's command to report to Major General Sherman, by the most practicable route, by the last of July.

Before starting General A. J. Smith's troops back to Sherman, General Canby sent a part of it to disperse a

force of the enemy that was collecting near the Mississippi river. General Smith met and defeated this force near Lake Chicot on the 5th of June. Our loss was about 40 killed and 70 wounded.

In the latter part of July General Canby sent Major General Gordon Granger, with such forces as he could collect, to co-operate with Admiral Farragut against the defences of Mobile Bay. On the 8th of August Fort Gaines surrendered to the combined naval and land forces. Fort Powell was blown up and abandoned. On the 9th Fort Morgan was invested, and, after a determined resistance surrendered on the 23d. The total captures amounted to 1,464 prisoners, and 104 pieces of artillery.

As I before stated in giving the report that the rebel General Price, with a force of about 10,000 men, had reached Jacksonport, on his way to invade Missouri, General A. J. Smith's command, then en route from Memphis to join Sherman, was ordered to Missouri. A cavalry force was also, at the same time, sent from Memphis, under command of Colonel Winslow. This made General Rosecrans's forces superior to those of Price, and he continued westward, captured the garrison at Pilot Knob and forced the militia into the works at Rolla, besieging the place, from which he was finally driven off. By the 2d day of September Price attacked Pilot Knob and forced the garrison to retreat, and thence moved north to the Missouri river, and continued up that river towards Kansas. General Curtis, commanding the department of Kansas, immediately collected such forces as he could to repel the invasion of Kansas, while General Rosecrans's cavalry was operating in his rear.

The enemy was brought to battle on the Big Blue and defeated, with the loss of nearly all his artillery and trains and a large number of prisoners. He made a precipitate retreat to northern Arkansas. The impunity with which Price was enabled to roam over the state of Missouri for a long time, and of the invaluable mischief done by him, shows to how little purpose a superior force may be used. There is no reason why General Rosecrans should not have concentrated his forces and beaten and driven Price before the latter reached Pilot Knob.

September 20 the enemy's cavalry, under Forrest, crossed near Waterloo, Alabama, and on the 23d attacked the garrison at Athens, consisting of six hundred men, which capitulated on the 24th. Soon after the surrender two regiments of re-enforcements arrived, and after a severe fight were compelled to surrender. Forrest destroyed the railroad westward, captured the garrison at Sulphur Branch trestle, skirmished with the garrison at Pulaski on the 27th, and on the same day by the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad near Tullahoma and Dechard. On the morning of the 30th one column of Forrest's command, under Buford, appeared before Huntsville, and summoned the surrender of the garrison. Receiving an answer in the negative, he retired in the direction of the place until next morning, when he again summoned the surrender, and received, and attacked it in the afternoon of the same reply as on the night before. He withdrew in the direction of Athens, which place had been repaired, reattacked it on the afternoon of the 1st of October, but without success. On the morning of the 2d he renewed the attack, but was handsomely repulsed. Another column under Forrest appeared before Columbia on the morning of the 1st, but did not make an attack. On the morning of the 3d he removed towards Mount Pleasant. While these operations were going on every exertion was made by General Thomas to destroy the forces under Forrest before he could recross the Tennessee, but was unable to prevent his escape to Corinth, Mississippi.

In September an expedition under General Burbridge was sent to destroy the salt works at Saltville, Virginia. He met the enemy on the 2d of October, about three miles and a half from Saltville, and drove him into his strongly intrenched position around the salt works, from which he was unable to dislodge him. During the night he withdrew his command and returned to Kentucky.

General Sherman, immediately after the fall of Atlanta, put his armies in camp in and about the place, and made all preparations for refitting and supplying them for future service. The great length of road from Atlanta to Cumberland river, however, which had to be guarded, allowed the troops but little rest.

During this time the rebels had made a speech in Macon, Georgia, which was reported in the papers of the south, and soon became known to the whole country, disclosing the plans of the enemy, thus enabling General Sherman to fully meet them. He exhibited the weakness of supposing that an army that had been beaten and fearfully decimated in a vain attempt at the defensive could successfully undertake the offensive against the army that had so often defeated it.

In execution of this plan, Hood with his army, was soon reported to the southwest of Atlanta. Moving far to Sherman's right, he succeeded in reaching the railroad about Big Shanty, and moved north on it.

General Sherman having a force to hold Atlanta, with the remainder of his army fell upon him and drove him to Gadsden, Alabama. Seeing the constant annoyance he would have with the roads to his rear if he attempted to hold Atlanta, General Sherman proposed the abandonment and destruction of that place, with all the railroads leading to it, and telegraphed me as follows:

"Centreville, Ga., October 10—noon.

"Despatch about Wilson just received. Hood is now cross-[-]g Coosa river 12 miles below Rome, bound west. If he passes over the Mobile and Ohio road, but I will better execute the plan of my letter sent by Colonel Porter, and leave General Thomas, with the troops now in Tennessee, to defend the State? He will have an ample force when the re-enforcements ordered reach Nashville."

"W. T. SHERMAN, Maj.-General."

"Lieut.-Gen. Grant."

For a full understanding of the plan referred to in this despatch I quote from the letter written by Colonel Porter: "I will therefore give my opinion, that your army and Canby's should be re-enforced to the maximum; that, after you get Wilmington, you strike for Savannah and the river; that Canby be instructed to hold the Mississippi River, and send a force to get Columbus Georgia, either by the way of the Alabama or the Appalachicola, and that I keep Hood employed and put my army in fine order for a march on Augusta, Columbia, and Charleston; to be ready as soon as Wilmington is sealed as to commerce, and the city of Savannah is in our possession." This was in reply to a letter of mine of the 3d of September 12, in answer to a dispatch of his containing substantially the same proposition, and in which I informed him of a proposed movement against Wilmington, and of the situation in Virginia.

"City Point, Va., October 11, 1864—11 a. m.

"Your despatch of October 10 received. Does it not look as if Hood was going to attempt the invasion of Middle Tennessee, using the Mobile and Ohio and Memphis and Charleston roads to supply his base on the Tennessee river, about Florence or Decatur? If he does this he ought to be met and prevented from getting north of the Tennessee river. If you were to cut loose, I do not believe you would much hurt Hood's army, but would be handiworked by all the old men, little boys, and such railroad guards as are still left at home. Hood would probably strike for Nashville, thinking that by going north he could inflict greater damage upon us than we could upon the rebels by going south. If there is any way of getting at Hood's army I would prefer that; but I must trust to you over your judgment. I find I cannot, with my experience thus far hold well on to what is already given up. Your movements, therefore, will be independent of mine; at least until the fall of Richmond takes place. I am much in hopes of reaching Hood's road somewhere south of Decatur. Here a serious difficulty, to make it easier should, I believe, interfere to prevent his escape. Should he turn north, I will be after him.

"U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-General."

"Maj.-Gen. W. T. SHERMAN."

"Kingston, Ga., October 11—11 a. m.

"Hood moved his army from Palmetto station across by Dallas and Cedartown, and is now on the Coosa road, south of Rome. He threw one corps at Resaca, and on the 12th attacked the place. I hold Atlanta with the 20th corps, and have strong detachments along my line. This reduces my active force to a comparatively small army. We cannot remain here on the defensive. With the 25,000 men, and bold cavalry, he can do us much damage, but I can whip his infantry. By thus holding him north of the Chattahoochee to Atlanta, he will have the best of it. But if he will go north will and destroy our roads, breaking up the road, then you strike for Savannah. With 25,000 men, and availing myself of the railroad and provisions, we may fight him in the field. There is no telling what the enemy will do. I would infinitely prefer to make a wreck of the road, and of the country from Chattanooga to Atlanta, including the latter city; send back all my wounded and worthless, and with my effective army move through Georgia, smashing things to the sea. Hood may turn into Tennessee and Kentucky, but I believe he will be forced to follow me. Instead of my being on the defensive, I would be on the offensive, I would be at once to do, we would have to guess at my plans. The difference in war is full twenty-five per cent. I can make Savannah, Charleston, or the mouth of the Chattahoochee.

"Answer quick, as I know we will not have the telegraph long.

"W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General."

"Lieut.-Gen. Grant."

"City Point, Va., October 11, 1864—11.30 p. m.

"Your despatch of to-day received. If you are able to move on to the plan of the seacoast, you can make, holding the line of the Tennessee river firmly, you may make it, destroying all the railroad south of Dalton or Chattanooga, as you think best.

"U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-General."

"Major-Gen. W. T. SHERMAN."

It was the original design to hold Atlanta, and by getting through to the coast, with a garrison left on the southern railroads leading east and west through Georgia, to effectually sever the east from the west. In other words, cut the would-be Confederacy in two again, as it had been once done by our gaining possession of the Mississippi river. General Sherman's plan virtually effected this object.

General Sherman commenced at once his preparations for his proposed movement, keeping his army in position in the mean time to watch Hood. Becoming satisfied that Hood had moved westward from Gadsden across Sand mountain, General Sherman sent the 4th corps, Major General Stanley commanding, and the 23d corps, Major General Schofield commanding, back to Chattanooga to report to Major General Thomas, at Nashville, who had been ordered to command the whole of the middle division, save the four army corps spared from that army, while he (General Sherman) was to march with the remainder across Georgia. With the troops thus left at his command of of the district he was to hold to concentrate and beat him in battle. It was therefore readily conceived that, with Thomas at his back, and the troops so ordered to him, with such force as he could pick up, and the re-enforcements ordered—such as he might gather—to assist, General Thomas would have a sufficient number to hold Atlanta after he was left, to hold the railroad in his rear as far back as Chattanooga, and at the same time, give the enemy battle whenever the latter might offer it; second, to destroy the enemy's line of communications and material of war in the rebellion stand again. These directions were given in view of an immediate movement of General Thomas. Having concentrated his troops at Atlanta by the 14th of November, he commenced the march, threatening either Augusta or Macon. His command at starting called upon by Maj.-G. F. Fox, Assistant Secretary of the Army, I agreed to furnish then required at once, and went myself, in company with Major General Halleck, to Hampton roads, where we had a conference with Admiral Porter as to the best means of co-operating with Sherman upon his arrival near the coast. Up to this time no troops had been sent to Savannah, and I had therefore to rely upon those there, or troops at hand and from other sources. General Foster was directed to send a division to make a positive demonstration at Pocotaligo, to destroy the Charleston and Savannah railroad as far as possible, about the first of December, in order to attract as much of the enemy's attention as possible south and east. On the 7th of January, General Thomas was directed, if the condition of affairs would permit, to send the expedition at least, if not the whole of Hood's cavalry. This, however, could not be done at once, as with such preparations as it had to be made. Every precaution was therefore to be taken to the points to which the expedition was destined. The State of North Carolina had constituted into a military department, and General Schofield assigned to

command, and placed under the orders of Major General Sherman. The following instructions were given him: